

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated November 3, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 3, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 15, 16, 22 and 46-62 stand withdrawn, as being drawn to a non-elected species. The Examiner states that claims 46-62 are directed to a method of monitoring while drilling into a formation, commensurate with Species II. In response, Applicants respectfully traverse this withdrawal. The specification at, for example, paragraphs [0053], [0054], [0058] and [0080] to [0082] describes methods such as claimed for monitoring while drilling with reference to Figures 1-5, which is the elected Species I.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the withdrawal of claims 46-62 is improper. Claims 46-62 are directed to fully described methods of the elected Species I. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request prosecution of claims 46-62.

Drawings

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). In response, "the earth removal member" has been removed from claims 23 and 28 by cancellation of these claims without prejudice. Further, Applicants note that an earth removal member is utilized in methods described throughout the specification and examples of such an earth removal member are illustrated in the application as identified by reference numbers 581 and 621 in Figures 6 and 7, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection and acceptance of the drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Maron*, (U.S. Patent No. 5,767,411). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Further, Applicants have canceled claim 5 without prejudice.

Claim 1 recites the limitation of "at least one sensor carrier carried on the casing string, wherein the at least one optical sensor is disposed within the at least one sensor carrier to attach the at least one optical sensor to the casing string." In contrast, *Maron* discloses an optical fiber disposed inside a capillary tube between casing and production tubing but is silent with respect to a sensor carrier carried on a casing string. In further contradiction to the Examiner's assertions, the optical fiber disposed inside the capillary tube as taught in *Maron* does not provide sensors clamped to an inner surface of casing.

Based on the foregoing, *Maron* fails to teach, show or suggest an apparatus as claimed in claim 1. Applicants submit that claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claims 1, and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Didden et al*, (U.S. Patent No. 6,271,766). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to substantially include the limitation of claim 5, which depended from claim 1 and was not indicated to be anticipated by *Didden et al*. Further, Applicant submit that *Didden et al* at least fails to teach, show or suggest "at least one sensor carrier carried on the casing string, wherein the at least one optical sensor is disposed within the at least one sensor carrier to attach the at least one optical sensor to the casing string," as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, *Didden et al* fails to teach, show or suggest each and every element of claim 1. Further, Applicants submit that claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claims 23-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Shah, et al*, (U.S. Patent No. 6,847,034). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 23 recites the limitation of measuring one or more wellbore or formation parameters with the at least one optical sensor while drilling. However, *Shah, et al* discloses measurements made during a cement operation but is silent with respect to making measurements while drilling. Therefore, *Shah, et al* fails to teach, show or suggest each and every element of claim 23. Further, Applicants submit that claim 23 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

New Claim

Based at least in part on the discussion herein regarding the cited references, Applicants submit that claim 63 is patentable over these references. The references alone or in combination fail to teach, show or suggest a method of permanently monitoring wellbore or formation parameters that includes providing a casing string having at least one optical sensor attached thereto, locating the casing string within a wellbore, measuring one or more wellbore or formation parameters using the at least one optical sensor while performing drilling operations through the casing string, and adjusting wellbore conditions based on the one or more wellbore or formation parameters, as recited in claim 63. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 63 is allowable and respectfully requests allowance thereof.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17-21 are allowed. Applicants acknowledge allowance of these claims.

Claims 4, 6, 8-12 and 33 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 4 and 8 in independent form. Additionally, Applicants submit that claims 6, 9-12 and 33 are allowable based at least on the traversal

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presented herein regarding the independent claims from which these claims depend. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection and allowance of the claims.

Conclusion

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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